192 the people have come in contact with foreigners and adopted various words. The Malayan language has adopted many Sanscrit words which were introduced during the Majapait rule. According to the [173] legend, a son of the royal house of Modyopahit founded in the fourteenth century a Hindu dynasty which reckoned thirteen princes down to Pangeran Samatra, the first Islam ruler; the daughter of Pangeran Samatra was married to a Dyak, who became the founder of a new dynasty. It has adopted many Arabic words which date from the Malay conversion to Mahomed's faith. But the adoption of the Sanscrit words into the Malayan is prior to the Arabic. As Sanscrit words are found in the Sea Dyak language it seems almost certain that, once upon a time, the Sea Dyaks inhabited the Malayan peninsula. Since the migration of the Dyaks into this island they have adopted many Kayan words.

[197] The Malays before their conversion to Mahomedanism may be presumed to have had no letters of 212 their own. What they have now are made up out of the Arabic alphabet. To suit the tone of their language the letters are named accordingly. With reference to the Sea Dyaks, since the gospel of Christ has been preached to them, letters of the Roman character are used and pronounced accordingly to suit the tones of their pronunciation.

194 It is difficult to judge between the two languages (Malay and Dyak) as to which is the richer and more expressive. Both languages claim classical forms. When the Malay language is spoken grammatically, it is not only very expressive but exceedingly musical. It is the same with the language of the Sea Dyaks.

173 The Sea Dyaks themselves affirm that they have descended from one family, which they can prove by [153] their genealogy. Some of them are extraordinarily gifted with retentive memories. Although we allow a limited amount of credit to traditions, yet we must admit that there were facts upon which their stories are founded.

[p. 3]